PRODUCTION BRIEF

20th Century Studios' and Footprint Features' "Darby and the Dead" is a supernatural teen comedy about a high school student who moonlights as a spiritual messenger. The original movie stars Riele Downs, Auli'i Cravalho, Chosen Jacobs, Asher Angel, Wayne Knight, with Derek Luke and Tony Danza, and is directed by Silas Howard. The screenplay is by Becca Greene, based on a story by Wenonah Wilms, and the producers are Adam Saunders and Eddie Rubin, with Michele Weisler and Mac Hendrickson serving as executive producers. "Darby and the Dead" will stream December 2, 2022, exclusively on Hulu in the U.S., Star+ in Latin America, and Disney+ under the Star banner in all other territories.

THE STORY –

After suffering a near-death experience as a young girl, Darby Harper (Downs) gains the ability to see dead people. As a result, she becomes introverted and shut off from her high school peers and prefers to spend time counseling lonely spirits who have unfinished business on earth. But all that changes when Capri (Cravalho), the Queen Bee of the school's most exclusive clique, unexpectedly dies in a freak hair straightening accident, resulting in the obvious cancellation of her upcoming "Sweet 17." Capri, however, pleads with Darby from the other side to intervene and convince Capri's friends to proceed with the party as planned. In order to appease the wrath of the undead diva, Darby must emerge from her self-imposed exile and reinvent herself — which along the way, allows her to find new joy back in the land of the living.

GETTING STARTED –

Development on "Darby and the Dead" began back in March 2019, when West Hollywood-based production company Footprint Features began looking for new character-driven material and came across Wenonah Wilms, an award-winning screenwriter and 2018 Academy Nicholl Fellow for her script "Horsehead Girls," which also won the Austin Film Festival's Drama prize that same year.

"We actually started off with a general meeting with her agent, who let us read everything she was working on," says Adam Saunders, Footprint's CEO, and the film's producer. "And we really liked this story, so we optioned it."

Saunders then brought the script to Silas Howard, who has directed episodes of several television shows, including "Pose" and "Dickinson," as well as the feature film "A Kid Like Jake."

"They (Footprint Features) were very patient and waited while I read the script, and I immediately saw that it was such a unique world, and a world I hadn't seen before, which is always something you are looking for in storytelling and film," says Howard, who signed on to direct in July 2019 and developed

the project over the following two and one-half years. “The story deals with really serious issues like grief and loss, which are both things that everyone has to deal with at some point, but the use of comedy and this absurdist lens on the world is what really pulled me in.”

Howard and Saunders spent almost one year working together on the script before bringing in screenwriter Becca Greene (“MTV’s Good Vibes”), whom Howard had worked with in the past. She had a strong connection to the material, a brilliant voice, and brought some exciting ideas the filmmakers wanted to explore further. “She knew all the throwback movies we were discussing, she understood what we were looking for, and then she went out and executed it,” Saunders says.

“Wenonah’s draft had all the heart and quirkiness that made the story so unique,” explains Saunders, “But Becca finessed everything into the final script.”

“Becca brought it home,” confirms Howard. “She shifted the structure and really grounded the narrative of this mother and daughter and the concept that going through trauma can actually produce gifts. And society doesn’t really talk about that. They view trauma as too intense when, quite a lot of us go through it and retain a heightened sensitivity or sense of empathy or just the knowledge that it is a gift. That is one of the great things the story explores; this gift that Darby has comes out around the time of the loss of her mother, and it ends up connecting her to the world.”

The filmmakers were big fans of iconic teen movies like “Mean Girls,” “Sixteen Candles,” “Heathers” and “Clueless,” and were eager to deliver a film that would feature a story and characters that would pay homage to those classic films and, hopefully, capture some of their magic as well. But the world is quite different today, and for the film to be successful, it needed to effectively reflect that world.

“Teens are so much smarter than the media depicts them, and this generation is so much more advanced,” says Howard. “And, having gone through the recent pandemic, there’s just something about their sensitivities and awareness that I felt really connected to. And as a trans person, I can see that today’s generation just gets it. People can be who they want to be, and that doesn’t infringe on somebody else’s right to be who they want to be. People carry high school with them throughout their lives on a lot of levels, so it’s a good time for them to decide who they are and if they are going to be different or if they’re going to conform, so it’s all about acceptance and just being yourself.”

Howard continues, “All of my life, I have watched movies that were not about myself; they didn’t show my experience in the world, but if it was a good story and was beautifully performed and beautifully production designed, I connected to it. We can put different people on screen to show that people have different experiences, but we really need to build the world from the ground up, taking into account the fact that different lenses matter. It’s important not to make everyone the same.”

“Seeing yourself on screen is everything,” adds Howard. “As a society, we sort of figure ourselves out in art and music and film and television, and for so long, there has been an assumption that it is a white world, and in the U.S., which it’s not a demographic, that’s white. It takes a lot of thought to make it, so it’s not the whole story. I think it is important not to have stories that are just attached to one part of our identity. I just wanted to have a movie that was about friendship.”

The filmmakers believe that, basically, high school movies needed an update in terms of the kind of characters represented on screen, as well as their experiences. They decided the best way to communicate this was by breaking down the fourth wall, where characters talk into the camera as if they are speaking directly to the audience (as in "Ferris Bueller's Day Off").

Howard says, "Believe it or not, John Hughes' movies are popular with this generation, so we wanted to have a different character with that kind of swagger on camera. And what was amazing about Downs' character Darby is that this fourth wall is her closest friend, so the audience becomes that, too, until she starts to make friends in the real world and pulls away. There's this way that she talks to us that gives us a chance to hear things she doesn't share with anyone."

On October 12, 2019, the project was greenlit by Hulu, and before long, casting for the principal roles had begun.

THE CAST –

Casting the film was a fun but challenging process, and the filmmakers and studio agreed that they should cast the best actors for the roles. "Casting someone who isn't white used to be called nontraditional casting, and that says a lot," says director Silas Howard. "So, when casting, you don't just want to do colorblind casting, but color conscious casting; you want to retain a lens of how you view the world. I'm trans, so that's one of the lenses I look at the world, but it's not the entire story. I also grew up working class and was raised by my dad. These are all things that add up to the kind of stories you tell. So to me, it was really important to keep the lead a young black actress because we haven't seen that before, and it felt really important that there was an organic inclusivity."

"I used to act, so I especially love the collaboration with the actors," adds Howard. "When you watch a scene, you learn new things; you hear words differently…there's just such a rich world of options to explore."

"We have the perfect cast," adds producer Adam Saunders. "In fact, when we did our first table reading on Zoom, oftentimes those things can be hard to get through, but everyone could immediately tell that, in this case, the characters were being played by exactly the right actors."

Riele Downs ("The Best Man Holiday," "Henry Danger") was cast as high school student Darby Harper. Darby can see dead people, which causes her to become introverted and shut off from her high school peers. She is smart, charming, and has an acerbic wit. She judges her fellow students, whom Darby believes to be both superficial and artificial. This attitude makes her appear arrogant and uncaring, but deep down, she longs to have friends and be accepted for who she truly is.

Joining Downs is Auli'i Cravalho ("Moana," "Rise") as Capri, a Frederick Douglas High School cheerleader and Queen Bee of the school's most exclusive clique…and Darby Harper's long-ago best friend. She is self-confident (Darby would say conceited), secure (Darby would say obnoxious), and knows how to play the game of popularity, a game she plays quite well. Unlike Darby, Capri enjoys being a teenager and is eagerly awaiting her "Sweet 17" celebration until she gets shocked to death in a freak hair-straightening accident.

“Capri is an iconic character…she’s like a trendsetter,” explains Howard. “She lives in the moment. The only things that matter to her are the cheer competition, James, and her birthday. And what she learns along the journey is that there is a bigger world out there and dealing with death or loss is a great metaphor for anything. Leaving home, losing a loved one, losing a relationship, anything that is a growth pattern.”

He continues, “I love that Capri always says what she thinks. She enjoys being celebrated; she wants to be seen. And I think Darby, at least at the beginning of the story, does not want to be seen. And then when she goes through this makeover, she’s like, okay, you can look at me, but she is still uncomfortable. And by the end of the movie, she’s like, you can just see me, and I think that’s a great journey; when people look at you, it is very different than actually seeing you, and when they see you, you can do anything you want. It gives you such a feeling of confidence.”

Chosen Jacobs (“IT,” “Sneakerella”) is transfer student Alex, a cute and charmingly awkward outsider who is immediately drawn to Darby Harper. But all that changes when he becomes the school’s mascot, Douglas the Donut. Asher Angel (“Shazam!”) is Capri’s boyfriend, James, an aspiring singer/musician. Handsome, humble, and laid back, he was Darby’s 6th-grade crush, with whom, on the heels of Capri’s recent death, he finds comfort. Wayne Knight (“Seinfeld,” “Jurassic Park”) is recently departed Mel, a “stayer” who has concerns about crossing over. He comes to Darby looking for spiritual guidance at the suggestion of groundskeeper Gary.

Derek Luke (“Antwone Fisher,” “Friday Night Lights”) is Darby’s father, Ben, someone who is lonely, missing both his departed wife and his daughter (who has been quiet and withdrawn since she lost her mom). Ben worries that Darby is still processing her mother’s death and has refrained from socializing as a result.

Tony Danza (“Who’s the Boss?” “Taxi”) is Gary, the school’s former groundskeeper, who also is a “stayer” and who enjoys playing chess with Darby Harper during lunch period, a game which he frequently wins (much to Darby’s dismay). He cares deeply for Darby and encourages her to rejoin the land of the living.

“For me, Tony Danza is an icon,” says Howard. “When I talked to him on the phone, it was like he had just walked out of the television set from my childhood and into the phone conversation. And then, meeting him, he was just the warmest and kindest artist and just a wonderful guy.”

“It was really sweet to watch Riele and Tony together,” Howard continues. “He brought a ukulele to set and sang a song for her and the crew, which made for a nice vibe. And for someone who has been working all the years with so much experience to still be so warm and down-to-earth…he is a class act.”

“Darby and the Dead” also stars Kylie Liya Page (“The Girl from Plainville”) as Taylor, Nicole Maines (“Supergirl”) as Piper, and Genneya Walton (“#BlackAF”) as Bree.

ON LOCATION –

When it came time to decide where to film the movie, the studio gave the filmmakers several different locations to choose from, including South Africa, New Zealand, and New Orleans. “Ultimately, South

Africa prevailed because it was the most cost-effective and gave us the most bang for our buck," says producer Adam Saunders. "Plus, it retained a California feel, and the story is set in an unnamed California location. "It didn't have to be set in Los Angeles or somewhere that people would immediately recognize, but we did want the location to be near the ocean and still visually represent the state."

In addition to providing a very California-like setting, a good number of the supporting roles, as well as all the background extras and many crew members, came from South Africa as well. "We worked with an amazing production company in South Africa and a local team for most of our crew, and it was incredible," says director Silas Howard. "Just the vibe on set, the friendliness, the professionalism, it was amazing."

Principal photography on "Darby and the Dead" took place in Cape Town, South Africa, from February to March of 2022. The talented creative team includes director of photography Ante Cheng ("Blue Bayou"), production designer Grant Montgomery ("The Wonder"), film editor Kate Hickey ("High Fidelity"), composer Roger Neill ("20th Century Women"), music supervisor Season Kent ("Birds of Prey"), and costume designer Moira Anne Meyer ("The Hurt Locker").

"We had an international group of creatives that came together to build this specific world for us. We were at this high school with this insane ocean view. In the U.S., you would never have a high school with a view like that," laughs Howard.

Adds Saunders, "We wanted the setting to have a magical vibe like it was some sort of Utopia that looks beautiful, yet no one really knows where it is. At one point, we discussed digitally removing the mountains and not shooting any of the very specific trees that are everywhere in South Africa, but ultimately decided not to get rid of anything. It really felt like this magical place."

ABOUT THE CAST –

Nurturing an impressive body of work that encompasses film and television actress, visual artist, fashion designer, and dancer, **Darby Harper (RIELE DOWNS)** has positioned herself as one of Hollywood's most gifted talents today.

Riele (ree-EL) began her journey as a film and television actress at the age of four, when she booked her first role in Paramount Pictures' "Four Brothers" (2005) opposite Mark Wahlberg and Terrence Howard. Downs went on to book multiple TV and film roles, including Universal Pictures' "The Best Man Holiday" (2013) and "The Gabby Douglas Story" (2014). She stars as Charlotte, the no-nonsense voice of reason on CBS's superhero comedy series "Henry Danger" (2014-20), which had a successful 121-episode run and won multiple awards, including her 2020 Kid's Choice Awards nomination for favorite female TV star.

Her star-quality voice garnered her several roles in animation, including the award-winning "Peep and the Big Wide World," "SALEM," and "The Adventures of Kid Danger and Captain Man," a spin-off series due, in part, to the success of her role in "Henry Danger."

Born a seventh-generation Canadian of African American, Cuban, and Native American descent, Downs was raised in Toronto, along with her older sister Reiya, who stars in "Degrassi: Next Class" on Netflix. Outside of acting, she is deeply passionate about furthering her career in fashion design, a big dream of hers that has now turned into reality. She has designed and featured many of her own looks on the red carpet. In addition, she is a stellar visual artist who has sketchbooks feathered with next-level fashion ideas, original drawings, and portraits.

Downs currently resides in Los Angeles, California.

Capri (AULI'I CRAVALHO) first captured our hearts in the title role of Walt Disney Animation Studios' worldwide hit film "Moana," opposite Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson, with music by Lin Manuel-Miranda. She performed the Oscar®-nominated song "How Far I'll Go" live at the Academy Awards® in 2017.

She quickly and seamlessly transitioned from voice-over to on-camera roles, starring alongside Josh Radnor and Rosie Perez in the Jason Katims series "Rise" for NBC, and in ABC's live production of "The Little Mermaid" as Ariel. Brett Haley directed her as the lead of his Netflix film "All Together Now," with Carol Burnett, Fred Armisen, and Justina Machado.

She can currently be seen starring in Hulu's queer teen romcom "Crush," directed by Sammi Cohen. Upcoming projects include the Amazon series "The Power," based on the Naomi Alderman novel of the same name. She stars as Jos Cleary-Lopez, opposite Toni Collette, and John Leguizamo. Cravalho voices the title character, Hailey, a risk-averse but resourceful teenager, in Disney Branded Television's "Hailey's on It!" She also stars in the upcoming 20th Century Studios film "Darby and the Dead."

Cravalho was born and raised in Hawaii.

Alex (CHOSEN JACOBS) is best known for his role as Mike Hanlon in the horror films "IT" and "IT: Chapter 2." He can currently be seen in the Disney musical feature "Sneakerella" opposite Lexi Underwood and the Netflix feature "Purple Hearts," opposite Sofia Carson. He will next be seen in the Hulu feature "Darby and the Dead." Additional onscreen credits include the lead role in the Quibi/Roku film/series hybrids "When the Streetlights Go On," Hulu's "Castle Rock," "American Woman," "Cops and Robbers," and recurring roles on "God Friended Me" and "Hawaii Five-0."

Raised in Atlanta, Georgia, Jacobs began his performing career with the Georgia Boys Choir at six years old as an opera singer. At ten years old, he blended his singing talent with acting and joined Atlanta's theatrical community as a performer in "The King and I," "Into the Woods," and "Hairspray."

Today, Jacobs loves to spend his time in the studio writing and producing music, such as "Losers," which was placed on the "IT: Chapter One" playlist on Spotify. "Missing You" was released in 2019 and was inspired by "IT: Chapter 2." In May 2020, he released his first EP titled "..." which featured his single "Phone Tag." As a young philanthropist, he enjoys paying it forward and giving back to the less fortunate. He recently collaborated with the Boys and Girls Club of Metro Atlanta to donate a portion of the proceeds from his song, "Me n Mine," to support their new community center.

When he is not acting or singing, you can find him watching anime television shows, studying French and Mandarin, on the basketball court, or streaming the latest Marvel movie.

Mel (WAYNE KNIGHT) is an actor, comedian, and voice actor best known for his role as Newman in the legendary sitcom "Seinfeld."

He is recurring on "Them: The Scare" for Amazon, and he shot a supporting role in "Ghost Party" for Hulu, and he can currently be seen in the Sony Pictures Classic film "Twelve Mighty Orphans," a true story set in the Great Depression about a team of orphans who band together to make it to the Texas State High School Football Championship. He stars alongside Luke Wilson, Robert Duvall, and Martin Sheen.

His other prominent roles include Benjamin Roth in "The Truth about the Harry Quebert Affair," the sleazy attorney Alan Starkman in the hit Netflix series "Narcos," the brilliant but evil programmer Dennis Nedry in Steven Spielberg's "Jurassic Park," Stan Podolak in the hybrid-comedy "Space Jam," and the great Don Orville in "3rd Rock from the Sun."

Knight has also lent his voice to some iconic animated features and series, such as the twisted toy collector Al McWhiggin in Pixar's "Toy Story 2," Tantor in Disney's "Tarzan," and several of the hit "Kung Fu Panda" films.

Ben (DEREK LUKE) was first introduced to audiences worldwide with his memorable performance in the lead role of "Antwone Fisher," written by the real-life Antwone Fisher and directed by Denzel Washington. He earned awards and accolades for his performance, including the BET and Black Reel Awards for best actor and the Film Independent Spirit Award for best male lead. He also starred in another inspiring true story, the Focus Features film "Catch a Fire," as real-life South African hero Patrick Chamusso. The performance brought him Satellite and Black Reel Award nominations, as well as the Breakthrough Award from the Hollywood Awards and the Star of Tomorrow Award from the Motion Picture Club. The film, directed by Phillip Noyce, also starred Tim Robbins and Bonnie Henna.

Luke has starred in over 19 films. Notable credits include "Biker Boys," opposite Laurence Fishburne; Peter Hedges' award-winning "Pieces of April," opposite Katie Holmes; David Mamet's "Spartan"; Pete Berg's "Friday Night Lights"; James Gartner's "Glory Road," produced by Jerry Bruckheimer; George Tillman Jr.'s "Notorious," in which he portrayed Sean Combs; Tyler Perry's "Madea Goes to Jail"; Lorene Scafaria's "Seeking a Friend at the End of the World," Spike Lee's "Miracle at St. Anna," for which he was a Best Actor nominee again at the Black Reel Awards as well as an NAACP Image Award nominee; and Marvel's "Captain America," opposite Chris Evans. Most recently, he reunited with his "Pieces of April" co-star, Katie Holmes, in two independent films written and directed by her: "Alone Together," and the upcoming "Rare Objects." He also starred in the Blumhouse for Epix drama "American Refugee" and will next appear in the Hulu supernatural comedy "Darby and the Dead," which will be available on Hulu on December 2nd.

Television audiences will soon see the New Jersey native starring in the new Disney+ series "The Crossover," based on the Newberry Medal and Coretta Scott King Award–winning novel by Kwame Alexander, which will premiere in early 2023. He recently starred in season 2 of USA's anthology drama

"The Purge," based on the hit film franchise. Notable series credits include NBC's "Trauma," TNT's "Hawthorne," FX's "The Americans," FOX's "Empire," season three of DirecTV's "Rogue," History Channel's remake of "Roots," and Netflix's "13 Reasons Why."

Luke also got started collaborating seven years ago with Professor Emdin (who is a NY Times Best Selling author & Columbia University Associate Professor) on a project called Science Genius Rap Rap BATTLES (Bringing Attention to Transforming, Teaching, Learning and Engagement in Science). From there, he and his wife, Sophia Luke, along with the professor, who was already spearheading the non-profit HipHopEd, championed this new program that focuses on utilizing the power of hip-hop music and culture to introduce youth to the wonder, practicality, and beauty of science and to transform how teachers engage with their students. They have since held the Rap BATTLES in several schools in New York as well as in Toronto, Houston, and Kingston, Jamaica, over the last six years.

Born and raised in Linden, New Jersey, Luke currently resides in Los Angeles with his family.

TONY DANZA (Gary) has been one of the world's most beloved and iconic entertainers for over 40 years. Perhaps best known for his starring roles on two of television's most cherished and long-running series, "Taxi" and "Who's The Boss," he has also starred in hit films such as "Angels in the Outfield," "She's Out of Control," "Hollywood Knights," and "Don Jon."

Well established as a song and dance man, Danza has also starred on Broadway in "The Producers," "A View from the Bridge," and most recently, received rave reviews for his performance in the hit Broadway musical comedy, "Honeymoon In Vegas," with The New York Times calling his performance *sly genius* and a *career-high*. Danza and his band actively tour across the country with their hit live show, "Standards & Stories." Combining timeless music with wit, charm, storytelling, and a dash of soft shoe and ukulele performances, he performs a selection of his favorite standards from the Great American Songbook, as well as selections from "Honeymoon in Vegas," while interweaving stories about his life and personal connection to the music.

Tony received an Emmy nomination for his guest spot on "The Practice" and recently made a special guest appearance on "Blue Bloods." Danza is currently filming reoccurring roles in Season 2 of HBO Max's "And Just Like That…" and Starz's Power Book III: Raising Kanan for Season 3. In addition, Danza has the much-buzzed-about "Who's the Boss" sequel in the works, and he can next be seen in a co-starring role in the upcoming 20th Century Studios film "Darby and the Dead," out December 2nd.

ABOUT THE FILMMAKERS –

SILAS HOWARD (Director) is an award-winning director, writer, and producer focused on telling honest narratives through the lens of groundbreaking and diverse characters. Working across film and television, Howard illuminates and shepherds' dynamic stories that feature underrepresented and marginalized communities. Up next is Howard's highly anticipated feature film "Darby and the Dead," which will premiere exclusively on Hulu in December. The film, which has an eclectic, cross-genre sensibility that is entirely unique, follows protagonist Darby Harper, a teenager who is granted the ability to see ghosts after suffering a near-death experience in her childhood. To combat the existential boredom of high school, Darby begins a side business counseling local spirits and encounters an unexpected acquaintance in the process.

Howard's first feature film, "By Hook or by Crook," premiered at Sundance Film Festival in 2001, ultimately winning five best feature awards across the festival circuit. Howard directed "A Kid Like Jake," a family drama where a couple navigates the competitive world of NYC kindergarten admissions while trying to understand what is best for their son. The IFC Films internationally distributed film, starring Jim Parsons, Claire Danes, and Octavia Spencer, made its world premiere at the 2018 Sundance Film Festival.

Howard's TV credits include executive producing and directing on FX's Emmy® Award-nominated series "Pose," and he was the first trans filmmaker to direct the Emmy® Award-winning series "Transparent." He also directed, and executive produced the AppleTV+ Peabody Award-winning series "Dickinson." His additional directing credits include "A League of Their Own," "The Fosters," "Faking It," "This is Us," "High Maintenance," "Tales of the City," and "Everything's Gonna be Okay."

Howard received his MFA at UCLA in directing and is a Film Independent Directors Lab Fellow, Nantucket Screenwriting Colony Fellow, the 2014-15 Arthur Levitt Fellow at Williams College, and a 2015 Guggenheim Fellow. In addition to filmmaking, Howard was a founding member of the seminal queer punk band "Tribe 8" and co-founder of the legendary San Francisco cafe and performance space Red Dora's Bearded Lady. He currently resides in Los Angeles.

BECCA GREENE (Screenwriter) is a film and TV writer and occasional actor. She moved from New York to Los Angeles in 2010 to be a staff writer on David Gordon Green's animated comedy "Good Vibes" (MTV). She has since created original TV pilots for actors Jason Lee and Zachary Levi at ABC Studios and NBCUniversal, respectively. Her feature film spec, "The Beard," was optioned and developed by Reese Witherspoon, and she has adapted several Italian films for the De Laurentiis family.

Greene was brought on by Footprint Features to write the screenplay for the supernatural teen comedy, "Darby and the Dead" (20th Century Studios), which airs on Hulu this December.

WENONAH WILMS (Story by) is a 2018 Academy Nicholl Fellow for her script "Horsehead Girls," which also won the Austin Film Festival's drama prize the same year. She is co-creator and executive producer of "Firekeeper's Daughter," a Netflix original through the Obama's production company, Higher Ground, and was a staff writer for an HBO series. She is co-developing three additional projects for major streamers. Wenonah is a two-time McKnight Media Artist Fellow (2007 and 2018) and was a finalist in the Sundance Episodic Lab & Sundance Screenwriters Lab.

She won first place in the comedy category in the Page International Screenwriting Competition (2011) and won the Atlanta Film Festival Screenplay Competition (2008). Her film "Sunshine" played at the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian in 2006, and her latest short film, "Waabooz," garnered ten awards and accolades, including the Kumeyaay Award for best native American film at the San Diego Film Festival and best native American film at the 2018 Copa Shorts Film Festival.

Wilms is active in the Minnesota film community both as a writer and mentor. She is a member of the Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewa, located in Northern Wisconsin, and resides in Minneapolis, Minnesota, forever.

ADAM SAUNDERS (Producer) has served as the lead producer of Footprint's films "Darby and the Dead" (starring Riele Downs and Auli'i Cravalho) for 20th Century Studios; "When We First Met" (starring Adam Devine and Alexandra Daddario) for Netflix; "Shimmer Lake" (starring Rainn Wilson and Rob Corddry) for Netflix; "About Alex" (starring Aubrey Plaza and Max Greenfield) for Sony; and "Family Weekend" (starring Kristin Chenoweth and Joey King) for Paramount.

His film "Dotty & Soul," which he also wrote, directed, and starred in opposite Tony® and Emmy Award® winner Leslie Uggams, recently premiered at the San Diego Film Festival and will be released in February.

He holds a BA in drama from Duke University and an MFA in acting from the Yale School of Drama.

In 2008, at only 21 years old, **EDDIE RUBIN (Producer)** produced his first feature film, "Art House," starring Greta Gerwig and featuring rock legend Iggy Pop. In 2009, he produced the music video "Million Dollars" for Big Sean. He also produced videos for projects such as Broadway's 2017 revival of "Sunday in the Park with George," which was directed by acclaimed director Cary Fukunaga.

Since finishing college, Rubin co-produced the post-September 11th drama, "Mooz-Lum," with Sundance Director Qasim Basir. He followed that up with Qasim on his award-winning film "Destined." In 2011, he produced "Love and Honor," starring Liam Hemsworth and Teresa Palmer. In March of 2013, the film was released worldwide and domestically by IFC.

He also segued into television, producing the reality series "American Muscle" for Funny or Die Inc. and Discovery Channel. In 2016 Rubin produced the feature film "The Last Poker Game," starring Academy-Award® winner Martin Landau and Paul Sorvino. The film premiered at the 2017 Tribeca Film Festival and was released by Gravitas Films.

In 2018 he produced "The Short History of the Long Road," which Filmmaker Magazine named as one of the top anticipated films of 2019. Since then, Rubin has executive produced/produced multiple projects, including Lulu Wang's Golden Globe®-nominated "The Farewell," Justin Chon's latest film "Blue Bayou," which premiered at Cannes 2021, and Robin Wright's "Land," which premiered at Sundance 2021.

In 2021 he produced Antoine Fuqua's "The Guilty" for Netflix and "Darby and the Dead" for Hulu.
Most recently, he produced the adaptation of the NY Times best-selling book "Out of my Mind" for Disney+.

MAC HENDRICKSON (Executive Producer) is the executive producer of the upcoming "Darby and the Dead" (dir. Silas Howard, starring Riele Downs and Auli'i Cravalho) for Hulu/20th Century Studios. He also served as associate producer on "Dotty & Soul" (dir. Adam Saunders, starring Adam Saunders and Leslie Uggams), scheduled for a winter 2023 release.

Hendrickson co-founded Garden Boys, a live comedy group that performed at The Second City, iO Theatre, and the Annoyance. In 2017, he toured with The Second City aboard the NCL Dawn. With his brother Patrick, Hendrickson wrote “Inferno,” a noir web series produced by Companion Pictures.

He is currently a producer at Footprint Features.

Born in Taiwan and raised in Canada, **ANTE CHENG (Director of Photography)** is an LA-based cinematographer whose films have premiered at Cannes, Sundance, Berlinale, and SXSW. In 2022, his work on “Blue Bayou” was nominated for best cinematography at the Independent Spirit Awards, and his work on “Pachinko” was nominated for an Emmy®.

Cheng is working on two upcoming Disney projects—the feature “Darby and the Dead” and the Marvel series “Ironheart.” In addition to “Blue Bayou” and “Pachinko,” he has several collaborations with director Justin Chon, including “Ms. Purple” (Sundance 19) and “Gook” (Sundance ’17).

MOIRA ANNE MEYER (Costume Designer) was born in Windhoek, Namibia, in the 1950s. She went to school in Omaruru and Otjiwarongo. From an early age, she had a creative slant to live. Always wanting to paint and sketch, she was labeled fashion-forward at the age of 12. Her father was a mine manager, and her mother was a matron in the local hospital.

Growing up in a conservative middle-class family did not encourage studying art, and thus she completed a BA degree in psychology and sociology and a BA honors degree in sociology at Stellenbosch University South Africa in 1978. It was after a year of traveling abroad that Meyer decided to study fashion design at Leggat’s Academy of Design in Johannesburg, South Africa.

Upon graduation, she did an internship in a knitting factory but quickly decided that it was creatively too limiting, so she took a job as a wardrobe assistant on a TV Series. After the second assisting job, she decided to be a designer and thus began a 30-year career in TV commercials, TV series, and feature films. She spent five years on the Balearic Island Formentera, designing clothes for a boutique, and worked in Sweden on an organic fashion brand in the 1980s.

Meyer lived and worked in Mauritius with Spice Clothing in the late 90s and then settled in Cape Town, South Africa. The commercial and film industry in Cape Town is prolific. She had the opportunity to do numerous international feature films as a costume supervisor, including “Lord of War” (2005), Blood Diamond” (2006), and “Ask the Dust” (2006) with Colin Farrell and Salma Hayek, directed by Robert Towne (Oscar® winner for “Chinatown” screenplay). She worked with Kathryn Bigelow in 2008 on “The Hurt Locker” (won numerous awards, including six Oscars®) in Amman, Jordan.

Meyer costume designed the Dutch feature “Wit Licht” (2008) with director Jean van de Velde, which was shot in Uganda, Northern Africa, and Port St. Johns, South Africa. The film won the Golden + Platin Film Netherlands Award and was an Un Certain Regard Award nominee at Cannes (2009). Other titles include “Death Race 2” (2010), “Dark Tide” (2012) with Halle Berry, and “Northmen: A Vikings Saga (2014). Her TV movies include: “Albert Schweitzer” (2009), “Treasure Guards” (2011), “Atlantis: End of a World (2011), “Labyrinth” (2012), and “Of Kings and Prophets” (2015). She also worked on over 100

TV commercials with world-class directors like Brian Buckley, John Dolan, Kim Geldenhuys, Keith Rose, and Thomas Garber.

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